

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An integrated system for providing financial services,
5 comprising:

at least one workstation having a central processing unit and a video display screen;

at least one host server;

10 a communication system for transmitting information between a workstation and at least one host server; and

an application interface operable on the workstation for accessing at least one finance-related software application.

20 2. The integrated system as recited by claim 1, wherein the
15 finance-related software application is selected from the group comprising: a real-time market data application; a financial planning application; a calculator application; a client information application; an opportunities application; an investment products application; an investment research application; and an office productivity application.

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3. The integrated system as recited by claim 1, wherein the finance-related software application is an investor monitoring system for monitoring and participating in investor-mediated transactions on a real-time basis.

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4. The integrated system as recited by claim 1, wherein the finance-related software application is a real-time market data application that accesses a market data server.

5. The integrated system as recited in claim 1, wherein the finance-related software application is selected from the group comprising a real-time market data application and a financial planning application.

5 6. The integrated system as recited by claim 1, wherein the application interface further includes a scratchpad application for moving information between applications.

10 7. The integrated system as recited by claim 1, wherein the communication system connects a workstation to at least one host server via the Internet.

15 8. The integrated system as recited by claim 1, further comprising a financial advisor.

9. The integrated system as recited by claim 1, further comprising an authentication system for determining user entitlements and accessing a user preference profile.

20 10. The integrated system as recited by claim 9, wherein the authentication system populates the application interface based on the user entitlements.

25 11. The integrated system as recited by claim 9, wherein the authentication system provides access to all applications using a single logon process.

12. A workstation for providing financial assistance, the workstation comprising:

30 a central processing unit;
a video display screen;

communication system for communicating between the workstation and at least one host server;

an application interface operable on the workstation for accessing at least one finance-related software application; and

5 an investor monitoring system.

13. The workstation as recited by claim 12, wherein the finance-related software applications are selected from the group comprising: a real-time market data application; a financial planning application; a calculator 10 application; a client information application; an opportunities application; an investment products application; an investment research application; and an office productivity application.

14. An authentication system for creating an application interface 15 of a financial assistance system, the authentication system comprising:

means for allowing access to applications permitted by a user entitlement level;

means for providing user preferences; and

20 a system for controlling the access to applications and the user preferences.

15. A system for providing financial information to end users in a network environment having at least one workstation and a host computer comprising:

25 an application interface having:

means for selectively running and displaying a plurality of finance-related software applications simultaneously; and

means for controlling the display of the finance-related software applications;

30 and

an authentication system having:

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means for determining a set of finance-related software applications that a user is entitled to selectively run and display; and

means for setting user preferences for the user based on a stored user preference profile.

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16. The system as recited by claim 15, further comprising:

means for executing a controller that maps server names; retrieves entitlement levels; retrieves entitlement data; retrieves user preference profile; creates a local user directory; activates application interface with retrieved entitlement data and user preferences; and launches application interface.

10 entitlement data and user preferences; and launches application interface.

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